

# Attention FDA

0670 '00 APR -6 P1:48

It came to my attention that the FDA is being asked to take away my right to sign a medical waiver before purchasing a hearing aid. Instead I would be forced to have a medical exam or hearing test. Here's my views and/or experiences on several related questions?

1. Should I be forced to have a medical exam and/or hearing test before purchasing a hearing aid? If so, should the FDA pay for the exam?

*What I choose to do as regards my health is no business of the government or any one else. I am a vegetarian, who has no interest in medical drugs. Should the FDA force me to change my diet or modify my health practices because the beef, pork or egg industry wants me to do things their way?*

2. Some people are physically unable to drive to a doctor or hearing specialist, or have had bad experiences they don't want to repeat. For instance ...

*I had to drive around 120 miles each time for service. I've never had to send my hearing aid back for repairs or adjustment. Any time I want to contact the mail order business, I just use the 800 number.*

3. Should the FDA take away my Constitutional Right, affirmed by the Supreme Court, to decide for myself my medical exams and treatment?

*I prefer to make my own decisions on jobs, religion, medical and in any other area. I am glad the FDA has a right to expose wrong business practices and quacks. I owned and operated a natural food store for 25 years. There were a lot of herb and medical products I wouldn't allow on our shelves. Also a lot of medical claims and advertisements were openly untrue.*

4. Should I be allowed to purchase hearing aids by mail as I choose?

*Three or four years ago I purchased a hearing aid from a prominent audiologist whose office is about 60 miles from my home. I paid 2000.00 for the device. I had to back and forth to his office every few months for check ups, adjustments or cleaning. A couple of years ago I purchased a hearing aid by mail which cost me 2 x 290.00 = 580.00. I've had and am having more or better satisfaction from this last set than I ever had from the fitted one. Why not leave well enough alone!*

Signed by: David McConnachie Date: 3-5-00

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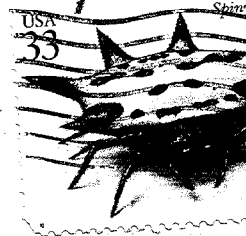
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